

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1354/03
by Pedro Marset Campos (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: Pollution of the Segura river (Murcia, Spain)

In the Commission's last reply (E-1852/02¹, 31 July 2002) to my many questions concerning the serious pollution of the Segura river (Murcia, Spain), it stated that, on the one hand, it was unaware of the judicial developments in this affair and did not have the power to act and, on the other, it was aware of the Spanish government's good intentions, which were reflected in the Environmental Recovery Plan for the Segura basin.

Last week (11 March 2003), the public prosecutor in the case concerning the pollution of the Segura river, condemned by the Izquierda Unida (Left Unity) party, presented the charges (see attached document) against eight people (the chairman and former chairman of the Segura Hydrographic Confederation, the Commissioner and former Commissioner for Water, the former managing director of EMUASA, the mayor of Alcantarilla and the two people in charge of the construction firm hired by EMUASA), alleged to have committed a crime against the environment and public health. Furthermore, my complaints to the Commission of the complete inefficiency of the various and successive sewage treatment plants in the Segura river basin throw into doubt the Spanish government's good intentions concerning the professed effectiveness of the aforementioned Recovery Plan.

In view of these facts, and taking into consideration both the numerous complaints made by myself and other people and organisations and the Commission's obligations in the face of circumstances with a bearing on EU directives on water quality, the dumping of sewage and public health,

1. Does the Commission not consider that it must intervene with the relevant Spanish national, regional and municipal authorities to demand a quick solution to this worrying pollution of the Segura?
2. What steps does the Commission intend to take to deal with the situation?
3. Does the Commission not think that it takes more than the building of sewage treatment plants to guarantee the quality of water, proper treatment of all kinds of sewage, and public health?

¹ OJ C 301 E, 5.12.2002, p.239.